

FULL

STORY:

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SNP accuse Speaker of lying to MPs

last week when Sir Lindsay decided to allow a Labour amendment to an SNP motion on Gaza to go to

motion on Gaza to go to a vote.

Mr Flynn claimed on Tuesday the decision was made after Sir Lindsay was "obviously bullied" by Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer – accusations both men

deny.
Mr Flynn said: Mr Flynn said:
"Unfortunately, the
Speaker of the House of
Commons (has) broken
the rules and now
broke his word and
effectively lied, not just
to SNP MPs but the
entire parliamentary
chamber and indeed
the public last
Thursday." Thursday.

inflation falls

GROCERY price inflation has fallen to a two-year low after fierce competition among supermarkets.

lowest rate since March 2022 and a significant drop from January's 6.8%.

over the month after a post-Christmas slowdown, and consumers spent £586m more on them



Grocery price

Prices were still 5.3% higher than a year ago in February, the lowest rate since March 2022 and a decrease marking the

Promotions increased

than in February last year.
The end of 'Dry January' saw total alcohol sales jumping by 18%.





TAX-greedy Chancellor Jeremy Hunt is considering announcing a new levy on vapes at the Budget next

Currently, vaping products are subject to VAT – but unlike tobacco, they are not also subject to duty. Tobacco taxes could also increase

Tobacco taxes could also increase at the Budget, to ensure that vaping remains cheaper.

Ministers fear that the relatively cheap cost of vaping means that the products are more accessible for young people and non-smokers.

The government first said it was considering a vaping levy at

considering a vaping levy at November's King's Speech, citing a "significant differential" with tax on

tobacco. According to *The Times*, which first reported the story, the new duty will be levied on the liquid in vapes, with higher tax rates for products with more nicotine.

Treasury analysis suggests the ew vaping tax, along with the rise tobacco duty, could raise around

£500m a year.
It comes after plans were announced last month to deliver a UK-wide ban on disposable vapes, alongside restrictions on flavours and how they can be packaged.

UK government ministers, who are responsible for delivering the ban in England, say they hope to pass the



relevant legislation before the next

The ban would then come into force in early 2025, with retailers given six months to make the changes once the timing is

The government also plans to increase fines for retailers that sell vapes to under-18s, which is illegal



Pro-Palestine hate marches cripple cops

PRO-Palestinian hate marches are placing 'unsustainable'

'unsustainable' pressure on the police's ability to respond to neighbourhood crime, MPs have warned. Forces will be less able to respond to emergencies or deal with local crime issues if weekly Gaza protests continue the home.

if weekly Gaza protests continue, the home affairs committee said. The warning came as Lee Anderson stepped up his criticism of Labour's London mayor Sadiq Khan over the handling of pro-Palestine marches in the capital, which last week included the projection of the antiweek included the projection of the anti-Semitic phrase 'from the river to the sea' on Big Ben.
Mr Anderson had the Tory whip suspended after he refused to apologise for saying that Islamists had got

apologise for saying that Islamists had 'got control' of Mr Khan. Mr Anderson acknowledged his

acknowledged his comments were 'clumsy', but insisted they were not racist.

He appeared to rule out a return to the Tory Party fold, saying he would not apologise to Mr Khan' while I've got a breath in my body'.

BA worker in £3m visa scam

A BRITISH Airways supervisor is on the run in India after being accused of organising a £3million immigration scam from

immigration scam from his Heathrow check-in desk over five years. The 24-year-old, who was working at Terminal 5, is alleged to have charged customers charged customers £25,000 to abuse a loophole which would help them fly with BA without vital visa documents. Police are working with Indian officials to hunt

down the suspect who is said to have left the UK with his BA ground services partner after being arrested and bailed. The BA worker is

accused of getting his customers to jet in to the UK on a temporary visitor visa – before arranging them flights elsewhere with false documents.

CEASEFIRE HOPE: Joe Biden says fighting will stop in Gaza received plans from its military

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden has said he hopes to have "by next ceasefire Monday" in the Israel-Gaza war.

His comments come amid reports of progress reached in ongoing negotiations involving Israel and Hamas

involving Israel and Hamas representatives in Qatar.

"My national security adviser tells me that we're close," Mr Biden said.

Israel launched a large air and ground campaign in Gaza after Hamas murdered about 1,200 people in southern Israel on October 7.

The attackers also took 253 people hostage, a number of

people hostage, a number of whom have since been released. The Hamas-run health

By COLIN HURST news@sundaysport.co.uk

ministry in the Gaza Strip says at least 29,878 people have been killed in the territory since then – 96 deaths in the past 24 hours – and 70,215 people have been wounded.

President Biden, whose country is Israel's main ally, was speaking to reporters in New York City about the possible ceasefire.

"We're close," he said. "We're not done yet. My hope is by next Monday we'll have a ceasefire."

A spokesman for the US State Department said earlier that "progress" had been made in negotiations to release the

in negotiations to release the Israeli hostages in the last

several days, but that it remained unclear whether Hamas would accept the latest

proposed deal.
"We've had progress with the we've had progress with the conversations we've had between Egypt, Israel, the United States and Qatar," said spokesman Matthew Miller.

Attack

Last week the US was widely Last week the US was widely criticised for vetoing a UN resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. Instead, it proposed its own temporary ceasefire, which also warned Israel not to invade the city of Rafah. Israel says its forces are preparing to go into Rafah to attack Hamas fighters there. On Sunday the prime

On Sunday the prime minister's office said it had

received plans from its military to evacuate civilians from the city. Israel has been under international pressure not to launch an offensive in Rafah, where about 1.5m Palestinians are sheltering, most having fled fighting further north in the territory.

In a separate development, Palestinian Authority (PA) Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh resigned along with his government, which runs parts of the occupied West Bank.

President Mahmoud Abbas accepted his decision, which could pave the way for a technocratic government.

Mr Abbas is under pressure from the US to reform the PA so it can govern Gaza after the Israel-Hamas war ends.



west Wales
and Scotland will
see the worst of
the wet stuff.
Temperatures of
90 in London, 80 in
Cardiff, 60 in Manchester,
100 in Refrest and 60 in 10C in Belfast and 6C in



It looks like more of the same tomorrow with heavy rain for most parts.

heavy rain for most parts.
Again feeling cold.
Temperatures of 7C in
London, 6C in Cardiff, 7C
in Manchester, 8C in
Belfast and 4C in
Edinburgh.
OUTLOOK: Wet.

THE Ministry of Defence has backpedalled on new military housing plans following fears officers could quit en masse.

Andrew Murrison, a defence minister, said the MoD was "pausing the rollout of the elements of the policy related to Service Family Accommodation" after listening to feedback and conducting a review.

conducting a review.

"This includes the move to needs-based allocation and in the short term the widening of entitlement," he said.

Defence sources feared

officers could quit over the plan

officers could quit over the plan to update rules on the subsidised housing offered to personnel in the British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force and their families.

These included changes such as the housing for a lieutenant colonel or colonel being downgraded, as the military moves to allocating homes based on needs rather than rank.

The changes had been due to come into force next month.

The MoD will still push ahead with plans "to improve the

standard of Single Living Accommodation, help military personnel get on the housing ladder by refunding up to £1,500 expenses and give personnel more preference in how they live," the minister said.

said.
Mr Murrison's statement
added: "Our Armed Forces
personnel make extraordinary
sacrifices to protect our nation,
which is why our Modernised
Accommodation Offer (MAO)
gives greater flexibility, backed
by an extra £200m investment."



slap a dassic

STAR: Julie Andrews in the lead role

February 28, 2024 Sport 3

A SPOONFUL of sugar... is RACIST!
Prodnose censors have ruled Mary Poppins

Prodnose censors have ruled Mary Poppins may no longer be suitable for youngsters to watch on their own because of racist language. The British Board of Film Classification has lifted the age rating for the 1964 tale of Julie Andrews' magical nanny from a U to a PG because it contains "discriminatory language".

This relates to the use of the word 'Hottentots' – a term regarded as racially offensive.

Admiral Boom, played by Reginald Owen, who believes he is a naval commander in charge of a ship, uses the word twice in the film.

Dangling

Dangling

On the first occasion,

On the first occasion, he is seen dangling from the roof in a boat where he asks one of the Banks kids if they are "going to fight the Hottentots".

And when the chimney sweeps, whose faces are blackened from soot, dance on the roof the admiral exclaims: "We are being attacked by Hottentots!" He then aims fireworks at them.

According to the BBFC's guidelines on PG content, some scenes may be unsuitable for young children".

They add that while children of any age can watch, parents are advised to consider whether the content may upset "younger, or more sensitive, children".

The BBFC looked at his travial context, the

historical context – the film is set in early 20th century London – but the fact the language is not condemned means it

not condemned means it now exceeds guidelines for a U film.

The BBFC said: "We understand from our research a key concern for parents is the potential to expose kids to discriminatory language or behaviour which they may find distressing or repeat without realising the potential offence."



A BARMY boffin reckons that liking pop star Taylor Swift is RACIST!

Melina Abdullah, a professor of Pan-African Studies

Melina Abdullah, a professor of Pan-African Studies at Cal State University Los Angeles, asked on Twitter: "Why do I feel like it's slightly racist to be a Taylor Swift fan?"

When one user asked her to elaborate on her opinion she replied: "Kind of like that feeling I get when there are too many American flags."

Abdullah is a co-founder of the Black Lives Matter's Los Angeles chapter and co-director of the activist wing of the advocacy organisation, Black Lives Matter Grassroots.

She later added: "Folks think they're attacking me by asking why I think everything is racist... virtually everything is racist."



Trump warns Harry about no protection

no protection

DONALD Trump
warned that Prince
Harry will be "on his
own" if he is re-elected
as president in 2024,
after criticising the
Duke of Sussex's
"unforgivable" betrayal
of Queen Elizabeth II.
While speaking at
the Conservative
Political Action
Conference, Trump
criticised President Joe
Biden's administration
for being "too gracious"
to the Sussexes ever
since Harry (above) and
his Yank wife Meghan
moved to California
in 2020.
"I wouldn't protect
him. He betrayed
the Queen. That's
unforgivable. He would
be on his own if it was
down to me," the former
president said, as he
claimed President Joe
Biden's administration
had given the immigrant
special privileges.
When asked about
Biden's approach to the
Sussexes, Trump said:
"I think they have been
too gracious to him
after what he's done."

too gracious to him after what he's done.



Body at station: man in custody

A MURDER investigation has been launched after a person was found fatally

injured in a railway station.

A member of staff at
Harold Wood station, on
the Elizabeth Line, called
cops at 4.30am yesterday, reporting someone had been badly hurt in an "act of unprovoked violence".

Police and ambulance crews went to the scene but the victim was pronounced dead.

British Transport Police

said a man was arrested and in custody.









most blokes would love to help out with...

Emily Ratajkowski is in a constant battle with the "voice" of her inner critic and said she needs to do "internal work" on herself.

Em, 32, made the admission chatting to Glamour mag during a video question-and-answer.

And when asked to describe her approach to self-love, she added: "My relationship to self-love is a complicated one. I think it's a journey... there's an internal voice you have to constantly encourage in a way constantly encourage in a way that it's a lot of work, and it

doesn't always come."

When asked how she practises self-love, the actress and model added: "I think I've gotten better at catching myself when I have this sort of opposite voice... and realising that I'm talking down on myself. You need to have a wider macro philosophy around finding joy in your life."

A fan said: "I think I'd like to watch Emily doing a bit of self-love and if she needs any internal work done, I'm happy to have a good rummage. Can I see some pictures of her tits now?"













Joanna: I'd axe nudity from films

ACTRESS Dame ACTRESS Dame Joanna Lumley says sex scenes are "rude sex scenes are "rude and horrible" and that she would cut them out completely from film and television.

The 77-year-old star (above) said that audiences immediately stop seeing a character on screen and instead

on screen and instead simply ogle an actor's naked form.

The Absolutely Fabulous beauty added: "The second you take your clothes off, the audience looks at your the actor and your second your the second your second your second your second your second your second seco you, the actor, and your attributes – what your

attributes – what your breasts and genitals are like. "You've immediately lost the character that you have built. There's a playground element to it... pull your pants down and let's see what you've got.
"I would cut them altogether – they slow

altogether – they slow things down.
"They're rude and horrible. I don't watch people on the lavatory!"

people on the lavatory!"
Joanna appeared
topless in the 1971 film
Games That Lovers
Play, and the 1970
comedy The Breaking
of Bumbo.
She previously said
that it was expected
of all actresses in

of all actresses in those days.

"Vanessa Redgrave, Julie Christie... we all had to take our top off. It was part of the titillation of the time, said Joanna, who has described herself as 'quite a prude"

38,000 killer XL Bullys on **Brit streets**

AT least 38,000 killer XL Bully dogs are still on Britain's streets – even after the controversial

breed of dog was banned. The figure is nearly four times more than Government officials thought even existed.
The banned breeds

register showed some 38,424 were granted a £92 exemption to avoid being put down before the February 1 deadline in England and Wales.

The Government had originally estimated there were around 10,000 XL Bully type dogs in the UK, even though a House of Commons committee last vear heard that there could be as many as 50,000 – based on information supplied by veterinary practices. The breed has been

linked to 24 deaths since 2021, while UK campaign group Bull Watch UK estimates 15 people have been killed by XL Bully and XL Bully crosses between November 2021 and February this year.





By KIT JACKSON news@sundaysport.co.uk

EVIL Vlad Putin is "spitting fire" after it emerged kinky bondage SEX ORGIES were being held in a

prestigious army officers' club.
The Central Military District
Officers' House in Yekaterinburg is
used for the funerals of high-ranking
servicemen killed in Putin's war
against Ukraine, and other solemn
military events

against Okraine, and other solelin military events. So there is outrage that it is also used for BDSM parties with naked revellers from the so-called Blue Velvet group who have 300+ members. Leaked black-and-white footage shows

Leaked black-and-white footage shows a sex party at the military facility.

"They film all their parties and post them on their private social media channels," said one source.

"The essence of the group is to get together, undress, drink and dance."

Complaints have been made to the prosecutor-general's

Complaints have been made to the prosecutor-general's office after one "erotic party" was held in the library of the House of Officers.

"Party guests at that event wore transparent underwear, drank alcohol and used drugs," a local news outlet has reported

Tickets cost between £5 and £10.

Pro-war activist Ekaterina and £10.

Pro-war activist Ekaterina Ipatova, coordinator of the Volunteer Company project, said: "We consider it totally unacceptable to hold such events in the House of Officers.

"This is where they say goodbye to the soldiers who died in the special military operation war.

"There are nightclubs for parties, but holding them in the officers' house is simply blasphemy."

Georgy Podkorytov, deputy head of the House of Officers, was forced to resign over the BDSM parties.

"I am upset that the House of Officers was involved in the search and thou are

"I am upset that the House of Officers was involved in the scandal and they are throwing mud at us," he said. He admitted: "I was also involved in this scandal."

A Kremlin insider said: "The President is incandescent ...spitting fire about this. And he's of the mind that this should be dealt with by firing squads."





Miss on 40 charges of sex abuse

A TEACHER has been charged with more than three dozen sexual offences after police said she sexually assaulted a former student.

Sara Kathleen Majors, 42, was arrested and charged with eight counts of sexual acts with a student, 16 counts of indecent liberties with a minor and 16 counts of statutory rape of a child 15 years of age or younger.

Majors first met the victim while working as a teacher at Hurley Elementary School in North Carolina, according to the Rowan County Sheriff's Office. She taught third and fifth grades while working at Hurley.

Detectives initially began an investigation after the victim came forward in 2023.

The crimes are alleged to have been committed after the victim left Hurley in the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Majors has been placed in the Rowan County Detention Center.

Fact me!

A HIPPO'S jaw opens wide enough to fit a sports car inside.

Snitch cyclist finds himself in the dock

A BUSYBODY cyclist who reported a driver for using his phone at the wheel has found himself accused of breaking the

law.

Dave Clifton, 56,
spotted a Range Rover
driver holding a phone
handset while he was
cycling through London's
posh Belgravia area, and
he captured the incident
on his helmet camera.
But affer submitting

on his helmet camera.
But after submitting
the video clip to police,
they claimed the cyclist
had been riding on the
wrong side of the road,
and suggested that he
"could pose a danger to
other road users".
Mr Clifton, from southwest London, has

west London, has since been charged with riding a cycle on a road without due care and attention.

He intends to fight the

claim at a trial next













VIAGRA STING: Soto and his lover







Padre flogged Viagra from the vicarage

A CATHOLIC priest and his secret boyfriend were arrested for allegedly running a Viagra trafficking operation out of their home.

their home.

Police burst into Fr. Alfonso Raúl Masa Soto's alleged drug den shortly after he officiated a funeral at the San Sebastián church in the Spanish town of Don Benito.

He and his lover were taken into custody on suspicion of peddling the powerful sexual stimulant and other "aphrodisiaes" from their home, just blocks away from the parish.

The pair's arrest comes after a months-long investigation that involved investigators

involved investigators tailing Soto until they discovered his home was a drug warehouse.

Trafficking

Local outlets reported that the priest and his partner received a shipment from Germany of Viagra. Viagra is only sold in pharmacies under Spanish law

pharmacies under Spanish law. It is not clear what other drugs the men have been accused of trafficking. Soto's lawyer argued that "there is no evidence that incriminates him"

Naked burglar shot in wardrobe

A NAKED intruder was

A NAKED intruder was shot when he was found hiding in a wardrobe. Police say the family, including children, were "disturbed" in the early hours when a 27-year-old man entered their home in Stake Hill, West Australia.

The homeowner armed himself with a rifle and began looking around the house. He found the nouse. He round the intruder hiding naked in a bedroom wardrobe and in the ensuing scuffle, the rifle was discharged. The naked man fled the home and the incident

was reported to police.
Police dogs were used
to locate the alleged intruder, who was found not far away from the home suffering from a gunshot wound to his leg. He was taken to the Royal Perth Hospital and

charged with one count of aggravated home burglary.



By MILES PLATTING news@sundaysport.co.uk

and added "he had no knowledge of anything". In a statement, the Diocese of Plasencia said it was "waiting for more information" and for "facts to be clarified" on the case.

"We certainly regret the events described by the pain, suffering and scandal that they entail," the diocese said. Parishioners are shocked by the drug arrest of their priest, who they described as a

well-loved member of

well-loved member of the community.

Soto declined to move into the parish house because it was occupied by his predecessor, who also lived with a sister in a wheelchair.

Soto's relationship was an open secret in the town – his partner would "discreetly" enter their shared home, but routinely greet neighbors, locals said.

Soto was released from jail after court, though his alleged lover and drug partner was

and drug partner was placed in provisional prison without bail.



AS THE WORLD'S HAPPIEST NATION CELEBRATES

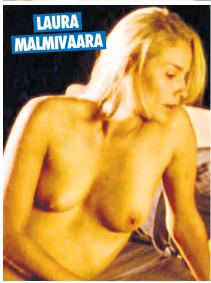




VERA JORDANOVA









Rocco in tears over life story

PORN legend Rocco Siffredi says he cried when he first watched the new Netflix show about his life. "I cried a lot," Italian Siffredi, 59 (above), said as he premiered Supersex – inspired by his childhood and career – at the Berlin Film Festival. Supersex begins with

Film Festival.
Supersex begins with
Siffredi's boyhood in
the coastal city of
Ortona, where his older
half-brother helps him discover his sexual superpower, eventually leading him to become one of the world's most famous porn stars.

famous porn stars.

The seven-episode
Italian-language
series, created by
Francesca Manieri,
stars Alessandro
Borghi in the role of
Siffredi, known as the
"Italian Stallion".

Jasmine Trinca, a
member of this year's
Berlinale jury, also
appears in the series
due to be released
next month.

Rocco said: "The actors
were fantastic, they
put their hearts into
this story, without
judging or criticism,
with heart, passion and

with heart, passion and a lot of love, to tell the life story of someone who has loved his job and who loves women very much."

'Noisy sex' glamp site faces chop

A "GLAMPING" site could be closed down after

be closed down after neighbours complained about loud sex yelps from guests staying in tents. Some residents said they are kept up at night due to karaoke sessions, with repeated renditions of 1980s hit Islands in the Stream sung "over and over".

The Secret Garden
Glamping site in Lymington,
Hants, is located behind
a three-bed house in a
residential area.

residential area.
Planning permission
was sought by owner Liz
Feay to use part of her
garden as a site for
'glamorous camping' for
five months a year but
after the application was
submitted, residents submitted, residents

submitted, residents began to object. Neighbour Daniel Wells said: "This is specifically targeted at holidaying guests and socialising continues through the working week, disturbing sleep for us. On several occasions we have had to close the window to block out the sound of a couple engaging in sex acts."

The local town council

planning committee have now voted against Ms Feay's application and recommended that the council rejects it.





A PUPIL who was shagged bandy-legged by his teacher is now suing school bosses.
The lawsuit claims the student

suffered from "emotional and psychological damage" after a four-month relationship with Stefanie Kelsey – a special education teacher at East Sac High School in Lake View, Iowa, until she was a procedured for experted for expensive the second seco

arrested for sexual abuse.

Kelsey, 36, was sentenced to 15 years in prison in April 2023.

The unnamed pupil was 14 at the time the relationship started.

Exploitation

"The emotional and psychological damage to the victim from the sexual assault, harassment, abuse and exploitation cannot be overstated, as it has been profound and lasting," reads the opening of a 20-page lawsuit filed by the plaintiff's attorney, Roxanne Conlin of Des Moines.

The lawsuit was brought under

The lawsuit was brought under Section 42 of the United States Code, alleging violation of the victim's 14th Amendment rights by government officials, namely Kelsey, the school district superintendent and the school's principal

the school's principal.

Conlin claims the district tolerated the relationship between Kelsey and her client to the point it amounted to government policy. The lawsuit also seeks damages from the school district and the

By KIT JACKSON

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schoolofficials for negligence,

school officials for negligence, negligent supervision, infliction of emotional distress and breach of fiduciary duty.

Conlin alleged Kelsey would pull the student into her classroom and kiss him.

Kelsey would allegedly send him nude photos via social media and the lad would share the photos with his fellow students.

Students allegedly observed "full frontal lengthy hugs" between Kelsey and the pupil and she would allegedly put her head on the victim's shoulder in front of others.

in front of others.
The two allegedly had sex one to three times a week from December 2021 to March 4, 2022.

Jizz

During school hours, the two would

During school hours, the two would allegedly arrange for clandestine meetings where they would have sex. Kelsey was eventually arrested after she walked into the staff room following a steamy tryst with the lad while sporting a streak of the youngster's fresh jizz in her hair. Kelsey was charged with three counts of third-degree sexual abuse. Last February, she pleaded guilty to a single count of third-degree sexual abuse and an additional count of sexual exploitation by a school employee.

Spread of norovirus blamed on migrants

A NOROVIRUS spreading across the US is being blamed on migrants. "Could the spread of

viruses be connected to unvetted illegal immigrants coming across our borders?" one Facebook

user asked.

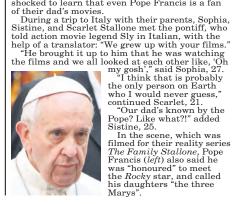
The contagious stomach
bug, which causes violent diarrhoea, has torn diarrhoea, has torn through the Northeast USA in recent weeks, where the positivity rates for norovirus is the highest in the nation. "A highly contagious norovirus is spreading across the Northeast (New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia etc)," another Facebook user

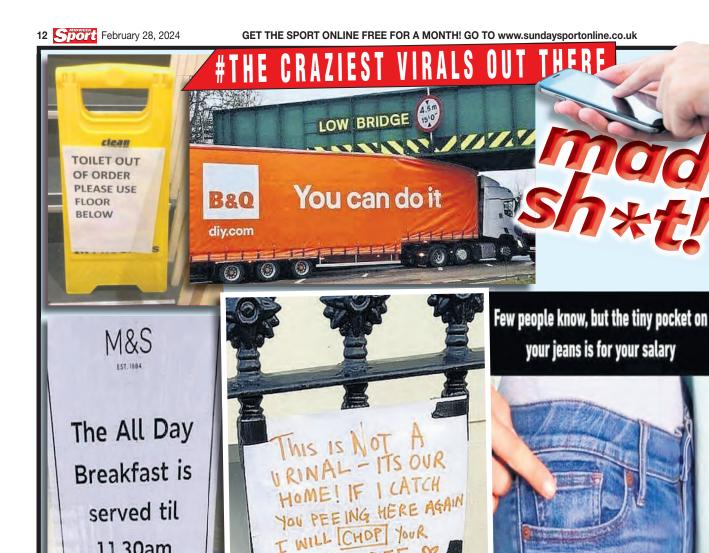
another Facebook user wrote. "All areas with high concentrations of illegals, who are bringing various types of virus and diseases into the US."

POPE ADMITS HE'S A BIG RAMBO FAN THE Pope is a massive fan of Rambo! Actor Sylvester Stallone's daughters were shocked to learn that even Pope Francis is a fan of their dad's movies.

of their dad's movies

his day Marys





11.30am



Pest control perv filmed teen's strip

A PEST exterminator was nicked for filming a teen undressing via a hidden camera after he sprayed chemicals on her clothing.
Walter Rivas, 45 (above), of Joroba Pest Control, was hired by the 19-year-old victim to exterminate her apartment in Mineola, near New York.
Rivas was spraying her home to get rid of pests when some of the chemicals got onto the young woman.

chemicals got onto the young woman.

He instructed her to immediately change her clothing, saying that the chemicals were poisonous and harmful.

As she was changing into clean clothes in her bedroom, she saw a bucket with a hole in it on her bed.

Upon a closer look, she found a mobile phone inside the bucket that was recording through the hole.

She called the cops and Rivas was arrested.

He's been charged with unlawful surveillance.

HAPPY VALLEY

THE best spot for a spot of swimming or canoeing this winter is Death Valley in California after the usually-dry area was hit with rainstorms.



















and roughly and it's really not









On-duty cop arrested for 'shoplifting'

A COP was arrested

A COP was arrested by her colleagues for allegedly shoplifting trainers while on duty and in police uniform. Robin Conner, 33 (above), was busted at a Dick's Sporting Goods store in Columbus, Mississippi, when an employee stopped her walking out in a £110 pair of tennis shoes, her police chief, Joseph Daughtry, said. "We're putting her in jail," said the chief, who was among those who responded to arrest Conner. "It's embarrassing for the department, but we're going to treat her like we would anybody else."

treat her like we would anybody else."
Daughtry said a store employee caught Conner trying to steal the shoes, and detained her before calling 911.
Conner's colleagues then arrested her and brought her to the Lowndes County Adult Detention Centre – in her own patrol car.

her own patrol car.
Conner was placed
on administrative leave straight away, but the Columbus city council voted unanimously to fire her.

Trump Tower sh*t manhunt

A TWISTED individual left a "smoking bag" of shit outside Donald Trump's

outside Donald Trump's
Trump Tower, the iconic
68-storey building on
New York's Fifth Avenue.
Cops are looking for a
white man in his 20s
clad in a grey coat, black
scarf and white trainers.
"It's being probed. The
bag was smoking and
when it was opened
there was a paper towel
in the form of ash and
the faeces," an NYPD
spokesperson said.
No-one was hurt.
"We always have cops

"We always have cops out here so they took care of it fast," a nonplussed Trump Tower doorman starting his shift said.

The incident occurred as voting began in South Carolina for the Republican primary, where former primary, where former President Donald Trump trounced his opponent, former U.N. Ambassado

Monster who made victims into sausages now eligible for parole



PRISON bosses are under fire as one of the world's most notorious serial killers has become eligible for parole.

The outraged families of the victims of Canadian farmer Robert Pickton, now in his 70s, say they are "disgusted" by the fact he

Tos, say they are "disgusted" by the fact he has aged into parole eligibility, despite killing at least 26 women on his pig farm.

He was jailed for life without the possibility of parole for 25 years in 2007. But a woke Canadian law means prison sentences can only be served concurrently – at the same time – rather than consecutively – one after the other.

That means Pickton is now eligible to apply for day parole and can apply for full parole from 2027. He can apply once every two years.

Prosecutors claim he confessed to as many as 49 murders to an undercover cop posing as a cellmate, and once quipped that he wanted to kill another woman to make it an "even 50".

Palexelsiya Lorelei Williams, the cousin of victim Tanya Holyk, said his potential parole makes her feel "sick to my stomach".

Pickton, also known as "The Butcher' and the Pig Farmer Killer', is yet to send a request for a parole hearing.

parole hearing

By BRAD CHADWICK

news@sundaysport.co.uk

But the mere fact that he is able to request a hearing sparked backlash in Canada, with Pierre Poilevre, the leading rival to M Justin Trudeau, slamming the nation's prison system in response.

"Common sense Conservatives believe that mass murderers should face consecutive sentences so they only come out of jail in a box," he wrote on Twitter.

Pickton made headlines in February 2002 when Canadian police issued a search warrant on his pig farm in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, for firearms offences — only to discover he had carried out far more grisly crimes.

Inspectors found items belonging to numerous missing women in the BC area, and after an excavation of the farm that cost more than £60m, they came across evidence of dozens of murders.

He was quickly charged with the murders of 26 women, with the true number feared to be far higher.

far higher.

Identifying all the remains became complicated

Identifying all the remains became complicated as detectives came to fear Pickton had eaten some of his victims.

In 2004, two years after the first search, prosecutors revealed Pickton may have ground up

his victims and mixed their remains into the pork products from his farm that he then sold as sausage meat to customers.

The day before he became eligible for parole,

The day before ne became engine for parone, grieving members of his victims' families gathered at the site of his former pig farm to protest the parole and pay tribute to the victims. The families had a candlelight vigil where Stephanie Lane, the mother of victim Michele Pineault, said: "He needs to just stay where he is well the day he dies." until the day he dies.

SPUNK-SQUIRT



A MAN on his way to meet his probation officer while awaiting

officer while awaiting sentencing for squirting spunk at women stopped off at a shop – to have a wank.

Dontrell Morris, 30 (left), was arrested for furiously masturbating in a shop in Valparaiso, Indiana. Indiana.

He was also found to be carrying a syringe of spunk in the sleeve of his sweatshirt, which mirrors his earlier criminal allegation of

criminal allegation of squirting seminal fluid from a syringe on the backside of a female shopper in Walmart.

Police said they were called to the store over a report of a man exposing himself and masturbating at female shoppers.

shoppers.
Store security, which was monitoring the behaviour on CCTV, led police to the suspect,

identified as Morris who was found in the

shoe department. Morris denied any wrongdoing and said he was in Valparaiso to attend a probationary hearing involving a pending sex case.

Guilty

Morris pleaded guilty earlier this month to a count of sexual battery in that case stemming

from allegations that on August 14 he walked into the Walmart store armed with a syringe containing seminal fluid and lotion, which he proceeded to squirt on a female shopper.

Morris admitted to creating the mixture, placing it in a syringe and squirting it.

Morris is charged in the latest case with two counts of public indecency.







Don't ban phones ...then we'd have

to talk

THE latest passing bandwagon all MPs are desperate to either jump on or destroy is the question of whether children should be banned from having smart phones until they reach

smart phones until they reach the age of 16.
You'll have heard most of the arguments against the tech...
They give underage children access to hardcore grumble.
They provide access to the notorious paedo disco of the "dark web".
They keep your offspring up until the early hours scouring TikTok and sharing Snapchats.
They distract them in their school classes.

classes.

They distract them at home.
And in between, they distract them
when they're meant to be looking left which they re heart to be looking left and right while crossing the road but are instead glued to their screens with their headphones on full blast while an 18-wheeler screeches to a halt just inches before them.

Not that the kid would have noticed.

Killer

Or even if they had, they'd have taken a photo of said killer truck, perhaps attached some devil's horns to it using Photoshop, or whatever, and put it on "their" Insta with a badly spelt, all-in-lowercase caption.

They distract them at the family dinner table. In the restaurant. On baliday.

holiday.

Indeed, you've yet to take them, and almost certainly won't because of it, but you can just imagine them at the top of the Eiffel Tower for the first

time.
Not gazing across Paris. Oh no.

Not gazing across Paris. On no.
But taking photos of the view of
Paris, and yet more photos of their
friends either themselves also taking photos of Paris or gazing serenely while pretending the lens isn't on

They distract them when you, the adult, receive a new phone, as per your contract, because even though you pay for the bloody thing, this is

somehow unfair on them.
Why should you have a better camera when you'll only use it to take pictures of your tea, while they will



use the new improved camera to take snaps of week-old clothes they now want to sell online?

When they crack the screen, which

they always, always do, guess who's paying for the £100/£200 excess? If you can prise the sodding thing from them, that is.

Clue – not them.
Or when one of your little treasures helps spread a fake news rumour about little Johnny from down the road – and little Johnny's dad finds

The biggest argument for banning kids from having them, though, is because it means we won't have to listen to them shrieking into them

because it means we won't have to listen to them shrieking into them anymore.

Or finding out who's shagging who in the accounts department courtesy of apprentice Janet in carriage two who you can hear quite clearly in carriage three.

But be careful what you wish for. Because banning the phone – which is banning the internet from being so easily reached – opens up a revolting alternative.

Actually talking to them.

And I can't think of anything worse. It's bad enough that they think they know everything about everything because of that box of expensive – to you – tech in their grimy mitts.

But to have some snotty nosed prat mewling at me about trans "rights", Palestine, "racists" and "fascists", at my own choosing?

F**k that.

Give them a phone, direct them towards the fleet files and then arree.

Give them a phone, direct them towards the flesh files, and then agree to meet up again when they're 45.

EMAIL ME: justin@sundaysport.co.uk TWITTER:



DOING HER

PERFECT JOB: Angela loves being

a porn star





School lied about Sir's death on job

THE wife of a teacher who died after being pushed to the ground by a hulking student said school bosses had told her he was injured after falling over. Fred Jimenez, a

Fred Jimenez, a 10-year-veteran of the Northside Independent School District in San Antonio, Texas, was corralling special needs students in a gym on February 7 when the incident took place.

His wife of 25 years, Margo Jimenez, said school officials told her he had fallen while trying to shepherd a student in the proper direction.

trying to shephert a student in the proper direction.

However, an internal report stated: "The employee was pushed by a student and fell, hitting his head."

Jimenez, 73, suffered a severe head injury and massive brain bleeding, as his tearful wife said: "They lied to me. They knew what happened from the beginning but they were trying to cover their butts. They told me my husband fell. He was pushed by a student who was over 6ft tall... a big kid."

San Antonio police

Student who was over 6ft tall... a big kid." San Antonio police are probing the case – categorised a homicide by the Bexar County Medical Examiner.

Teacher is found dead in stairwell

A TEACHER who failed to appear outside his school to be picked up by a relative was found dead in a school stairwell the next morning.

Maintenance staff found Craig Jones, 47, of Gary, Indiana, dead on the landing of a second floor stairwell at East Chicago Lighthouse Charter School, according

to East Chicago police.

An investigation shows
Mr Jones called his family to ask for a lift home about 10.30pm after earlier telling them he

was working late.

But when a relative arrived a short time later, Mr Jones never came outside the school, and the person drove away

after receiving no other phone calls from him.
Officers were called at 6.40am the next day after Mr Jones's body was discovered at the school.

discovered at the school. The cause of death is under investigation by the Lake County Coroner's Office, deputy coroner Eric Graf said.

The Lake County Prosecutor's Homicide Task Force is also investigating, but police said "at this time, there is no reason to believe any foul play was involved".





Dear Sam,

I HAD to laugh when I visited a pal of mine who's in the sex industry

She said her previous client had been a bloke aged about 75, and

She said her previous client had been a bloke aged about 75, and though she tried for over an hour she failed to stiffen the eager old chap's limp old chap.

She claimed she'd tried wanking him with oil and even licked his balls, but without any success.

Then she did a striptease for him, talked absolute filth, let him sniff her panties and even sat on his face, but nothing she could do could get the old boy's penis to step up to the plate, as it were.

Frustrated and angry with himself, he apologised and said alcohol was probably to blame and that he had better get hold of some Viagra for his next visit to her.

When she asked him when he'd last had a drink he told her it was when his wife left him...in 1993!

CT, Berks

Sam says... YOU'VE got to give the old chap full marks for trying.

Dear Sam,

THERE is a barmaid in my local who gives blowjobs for a tenner and will let anyone shag her for £50.

I'll be the first to admit it's not the most classy of establishments but I've been going there regularly for years, especially since this lovely, keen and hardworking brunette started behind the bar.

I've boned her five times in recent weeks. It's usually in the gents, and there is always a queue, but she gives excellent value and lets me take my time with her.

I love the way I can cup her massive tits as I back-scuttle her over one of the bogs. She has this lovely technique of reaching between her legs and giving my balls a squeeze, which seems to make me harder and come like an express train.

I'm 60, and have been divorced three times but would love to have her as my new wife.

She's 25, single and has got four kids.

Do you think I should ask for her hand in marriage?

GH, Hants

Sam says... Go for it. If you don't ask, you don't get!

Missus is calling me out after one night stand

Dear Sam,

I WENT to a fantastic bash last I WENT to a fantastic bash last week and ended up shagging a really tasty brunette who was wearing a see-through blouse, a leather mini-skirt and black stockings.

It seems she was he was an old college pal of the party's host and was visiting from London specially.

As I chatted to her it was all I could do to stop myself from staring at her enormous tits, which were braless beneath her top, but I'm sure she knew

her top, but I'm sure she knew that.

I moved in close to her and she was immediately responsive, and when I suggested we go upstairs to see if we could find a quiet

bedroom, she was well up for it, discreetly giving my cock a squeeze through my jeans by way of confirmation.

Once we found a bed we stripped off and she went wild for my eight-incher, taking it in all of her lovely orifices.

It was strictly a one-night stand for both of us, because we've both got regular partners, and I don't plan to see her again. again.

The problem is I left my phone there and my missus wants to know where it is.

Sam says...

TELL her it got nicked!

Dear Sam.

THE other Sunday afternoon my mate invited me and the lads to watch the footie round at his house.

His missus kept us supplied with snacks and beers and as half-time approached she disappeared up to her bedroom. When she came back to

her bedroom.

When she came back to the living room she was wearing a black PVC French maid's outfit with a tiny skirt and a low-cut front showing off her cleavage – she was absolutely stunning.

Her husband was apparently shocked and went as red as a beetroot at first but he soon joined in the fun.

As she bent down to pick up some empty beer cans he got behind her and lifted her skirt and pretended to shag her doggy style.

"Come on, then, why don't you give me a length," she said as she bent right over so that her massive tits fell out of the front of her dress.

To our shock and amazement he obeyed, unzipping his flies, pulling out his cock, easing down her frilly panties and sliding his erection easily into his clearly aroused missus.

email: agony@ sundaysport.co.uk Mail: Agony, Sunday Sport, 860 Chester Rd, Stretford, Manchester M32 0QJ

As he pumped away you could see the thrill and lust on her face as she looked at each of us in turn with a really filthy come-on look in her eye.

play with the miss

So as her hubby carried on giving her one from behind I slid over and slipped my hand between her legs. I stroked her hot, hard clit and at the

same time started undoing my jeans.

Sucking

She was keen to help and soon had my stiffening prick out and in her warm, wet mouth, wanking me and sucking at the same time.
At first the other lads cheered us, but

you see they too were keen to get involved and were rubbing at their own

Soon there were hands all over her. groping her boobs and fingering her dripping pussy after her hubby, having emptied his ballbag, settled back on the sofa satisfied and watched his wife get

reamed.

She was wanking and sucking off my mates with total enthusiasm, and we all had a turn at shagging her till everyone, including her, had reached a climax. It was a damn sight more fun than the football! football!

My problem is, am I expected to return the favour, and invite the lads round to mine next time? I'm not sure my missus would be quite as accommodating!

BK, South Yorks

Sam says...

YOUR friend and his wife clearly planned the whole thing all along. You need to sound your wife out first, to see if she likes the idea of shagging other men. She might!

Does hubby want me or strippers?

Dear Sam.

MY husband went for a night out with his mates to a strip club. We've been married for eight years and trust each

other, so I had no worries about him having an affair or anything like

When I heard the key scratching in the lock at about 3am on his return I was just relieved that he'd managed to find his way home OK. When he got up to the

when he got up to the bedroom he started to ramble on drunkenly about how fantastic all the strippers had been and how they contorted their bodies and fiddled with their bits and even played with sex toys while on

Despite all the booze he'd obviously had, he was as randy as hell and slipped his hands straight

down to my pussy.

He worked on my clit for a while before sliding first two, then three fingers

deep into me as I found myself getting more and more excited.

Then he climbed out of

Then he climbed out of his clothes and on top of me and went for it.

I was soon on all fours as he rammed into me like never before.

I couldn't believe his incredible stamina as he

thrust in and out for ages before we both had huge climaxes.

The next day he said that he and his chums would be going once a month to the strip shows.

I nervously agreed, thinking that at least I would get a real shafting out of it — even if it was only once a month.

But since that visit he's

always after me for sex and I reckon when he's giving me a rogering he's really thinking about all those strippers. What do you think? MJ, South Yorks

Sam says...

DOES it matter? It's you he's shagging, after all.

Dear Sam,

I'VE recently split up with my partner of four years and since then I've been having the time of my life shagging her mother...as well as her younger sister.

The mother is a very young-looking woman and gives the best blowjob you could wish for.

She came round to see how I was feeling after the split and brought some wine.

She let her coat slip open and gave me a saucy grin, and the next thing she was on her knees sucking me off.

We then had sex three times and it was amazing. I'VE recently split up

sucking me off.
We then had sex three times and it was amazing. We've since met for sex regularly but two weeks ago my ex-girlfriend's sister came round and said she knew about me shagging her mum.
She said I'd have to shag her too to keep her quiet, so I soon had her bent over the sofa and was giving her a right good seeing to.

She said she'd come round the next evening with two of her mates to watch some porn. She did and I shagged each of them – and at one point I had three moist pussies

had three moist pussies in my face.
All this is costing me a fortune in Viagra and besides, I think I want my besides, I thinks a girlfriend back. What can I do? FD, Essex

Sam says...

IT'S too late to turn back -









LADYBOYS















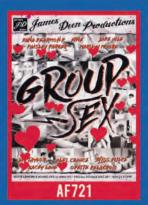






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34 Sport February 28, 2024

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
 5. Skin irritation (4)
 7. Champion's opponent (10)
 8. Cause the death of (4)
 10. Counterpart (4)
 12. Stubbs, actress (3)
 13. Yeast (6)
 16. Any verse or piece of poetry (5)
 18. Weir (3)
 20. Roster (4)
 21. House type (4)
 22. High mountain (3)
 24. Winter sportsman (5)

- 24. Winter sportsman (5) 25. Painter (6) 26. Intestine (3) 27. Accept (4) 29. Jolt (4)

- 33. Feel or undergo (10) 34. Compass point (4)

DOWN

- DOWN
 1. Female person or animal (3)
 2. Gusted (4)
 3. Intend (4)
 4. Ovum (3)
 5. Irritate, vex (3)
 6. Punctuation mark (5)
 9. Rush (5) 4. Ovum (3)
 6. Punctuation mark (5)
 9. Rush (5)
 10. Deposit on the teeth (6)
 11. Stripling (3)
 13. Minimum (5)
 14. Urn (4)
 15. Come into view (6)
 17. Stop (4)
 19. Circumference (5)
 23. Mine (3)
 25. Entertain (5)
 27. Mountain lake (4)
 28. Retain (4)
 30. Favourite (3)
 31. Secret agent (3)
 32. Expert (3)

- 1. WHICH EastEnders star's youngest daughter Sunnie, 16, is being eyed up by PrettyLittleThing to from a clothing campaign? a) Gillian Taylforth b) Adam Woodyatt c) Letitia Dean d) Danny Dyer 1. WHICH EastEnders star's

- 2. BRITISH holidaymakers are among 2,200 passengers stuck on board which cruise liner after Mauritian authorities barred it from docking
- following reports of a cholera outbreak? a) Norwegian Dawn b) Norwegian Blue
- c) Norwegian Wood d) Norwegian Fjord
- 3. EVERTON have leapfrogged Nottingham Forest and Brentford in the table after the Premier League's appeals board reduced their 10-point deduction to just what?
- a) 9b) 6 c) 3 d) 1
- 4. NAME Sir David Attenborough's new audio-focused documentary series whose nature sounds are controversially recorded in an editing suite, not in the wild.
- a) Wall of Sound b) Our Little Secret c) The Hills Are Alive d) Secret World of Sound
- 5. WHO scored Liverpool's

SPORTDUKO

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extra time winner against Chelsea to lift the Carabao Cup at Wembley? a) Mo Salah b) Diogo Jota c) Virgil van Dijk d) Darwin Nunez

- 6. A SUPERVISOR from which airline is said to be "on the run in India" after "organising a £3million immigration scam from his Heathrow check-in
- desk for five years"?
 a) British Airways
 b) Beijing Capital
- Airlines
 c) Qatar Airways
 d) Etihad Airlines
- 7. WHICH Friends star is rumoured to being lined up as the first signing for a celebrity version of hit UK show *The Traitors*? a) Matt LeBlanc
- b) Courteney Cox c) Lisa Kudrow d) Jennifer Aniston

8. WHICH footy manage has come under fire for calling a female BBC reporter a "good girl"? a) David Moyes b) Eddie Howe c) Brendan Rodgers d) Sean Dyche

8. WHICH footy manager

- 9. WHICH top Labour MP faces growing pressure after questions were raised about whether they raised about whether that should have paid Capital Gains Tax on the sale of a former council house? a) Yvette Cooper b) Sir Keir Starmer c) David Lammy d) Angela Rayner
- 10. HOW many XL Bully dogs are still on Britain's streets, even after the
- controversial breed was banned nationwide?
- a) 38 b) 380 c) 3,800 d) 38,000

DOWN: T. She; Z. Blew; 3. Mean; 4. EEE; 5. Irk; 5. Colon; 9. Hury; 14. Vase; 25. Amerge; 17. Halt; 29. Cirki, 23. Prt; 14. Vase; 14. Vase; 14. Vase; 14. Vase; 15. Emerge; 17. Halt; 16. Emerge; 17. Halt; 17. Emerge; 17. Halt; 17. Emerge; 17. Halt; 17. Emerge; 17. Halt; 17. H

ANSWERS

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ALL THE LATEST FROM THE IN

STOKES dismissed suggestions England lack a ruthless edge and expressed pride at how his team have fared in Indian conditions after not being given a "chance in hell" of success.

England succumbed to a first Test series defeat under the leadership of captain Stokes and head coach Brendon McCullum, as India moved into

an unassailable 3-1 lead with a five-wicket victory in Ranchi. India hit back from 177 for seven in reply to 353 to keep the first-innings deficit to 46 then England crumbled from 110 for three to 145 all out on a turning track and could not stop the hosts chasing 192.

The tourists have let slip

The tourists have let slip promising opportunities on several occasions in this series but Stokes is not one for regrets and instead commended Ravichandran Ashwin, Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja for swinging this Test India's way

By NED TRUEMAN

after they shared all 10 wickets in

after they shared all 10 wickets in England's second innings.

"Everyone goes into the game with their best intentions, when it doesn't pay off people say we're not ruthless but when they do, they say we are," Stokes said. "I don't really understand the eaving

saying.
"We try to do what we think is we try to do what we think is the best way to win the game. It can be a throwaway comment when people say we're not ruthless enough. You can say everything is a missed chance when it doesn't go well.

Impossible

"When India have a sniff in conditions like that, any team is going to find it hard. When you've got three world-class spinners operating in those conditions, you know you're going to be up against

"Nothing is impossible, I wouldn't say that. But it was nigh-on impossible to operate how we wanted to. Cricket is always

skill against skill. On this occasion, their skill was better than ours."

The chase was far from straightforward for India, who slipped to 120 for five as Joe Root and Tom Hartley snared Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rohit Sharma before Shoaib Bashir claimed a three-wicket head.

Shoaib Bashir claimed a three-wicket haul.

But an unbroken stand of 72 from Shubman Gill (52 not out) and Dhruv Jurel (39no) got India home to dash England's dream of a series decider in Dharamshala, with the final Test starting on March 7.

India extended a proud winning

March 7.
India extended a proud winning record at home to 17 successive Test series against an England side who have relied on a rookie spin attack after Jack Leach's tour-ending injury in the opening

match.
"We didn't have a chance in hell "We didn't have a chance in nei of even competing with India but even that wasn't an easy win for India and I think they would admit that," Stokes said. Headdedin his press conference: "We always still felt in the game. Even with 30 runs left we knew

that if we went bang-bang, all the pressure was back on India.
"I'm proud of how everyone stuck at their task during the match even if their role was just to be a fielder.

"That's what I want from everyone, to never give up because you never know where a game is

going to go.

"It's always disappointing being on the losing team. Obviously we want to win every game we play and win every series.

Frontline

"You can have it all taken away from you at the click of a finger so why not enjoy every opportunity to play and make sure you are doing it with a smile on your face regardless of what is happening."

James Anderson bowled a three-over spell but was off the field for much of the fourth day while Ollie Robinson was unused as Stokes stuck with frontline spinners Bashir and Hartley and part-time Root. part-timer Root.

Stokes revealed no risks were taken with Anderson because the

41-year-old was feeling tightness in his quadriceps, having sent down 94 overs in three successive Tests.

"Jimmy's fine," Stokes added.
"There was no chance he was going to bowl at all in the (rest of the) game.
"You look at risk v reward,

there's not too much reward from Jimmy being out in the field if he's got a pretty tight quad after playing three back-to-back Test matches in India." ■England's fourth-Test defeat to

India condemned them to a first series loss under the leadership of coach Brendon McCullum and captain Ben Stokes.

Here, Midweek Sport looks at the pair's record since taking charge in 2022 and what they can do to get back on treek.

do to get back on track.

FIRST SETBACK
The Stokes-McCullum era The Stokes-McCullum era began with a spectacular series win over New Zealand in June 2022, England chasing down fourth-innings targets of 277, 299 and 296 to win all three Tests

They lost the first Test against

IA v ENGLAND CRICKET



South Africa later that summer by an innings but responded in kind in the second en route to a

2-1 series win. A first-innings total of 657 in A first-innings total of 657 in less than four sessions set the tone for a 3-0 win away to Pakistan in the winter and they then shared a series in New Zealand 1-1.

Zealand 1-1.

Last summer's Ashes were also drawn, 2-2, with Australia retaining the urn but both teams emerging with pride and credit from a thrilling series.

Stokes and McCullum's side also won a rearranged fifth Test against India in July 2022, which completed the previous summer's series as a 2-2 draw, and beat Ireland in a one-off Test ahead of the Ashes.

CAPTAIN MARVEL

Stokes still has a 60.9 per cent winning record in Test matches as captain, behind only WG Grace (61.5 per cent) among Englishmen with at least 10 Tests in the role.

He has won 14, lost eight and drawn one of 23 Tests, including

one while deputising as captain for Joe Root in 2020.

His personal contributions have been impressive, with 1,342 runs as skipper at an average of 36.27 and a strike rate of 65.62 – up on the respective marks of 35.77 and 57.54 when not captaining the side.

57.54 when not captaining the side.

That ranks him fourth among England run-scorers under his captaincy, behind Root (1,737), Zak Crawley (1,531) and Ollie Pope (1,413).

While his bowling has been limited by injuries, his 29 wickets as captain have come at an average of 28.17 − far below his prior rate of 32.74.

■Neil Wagner will call time on his New Zealand career at the end of their Test series against Australia − although the left-arm seamer is unlikely to feature.

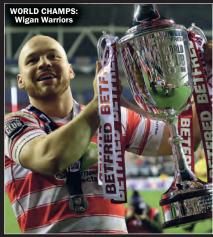
The 37-year-old was not selected in New Zealand's XI for their first Test against Australia starting on Thursday and is set to be released from the squad ahead of the second and last

match in Christchurch. Wagner has taken 264 wickets in 64 Tests at an average of 27.57 and, 12 months ago, secured a famous one-run victory for the Kiwis over England in Wellington by dismissing last man James Anderson to square the series. "It's been an emotional week," said Wagner, who was part of the Black Caps side that won the inaugural World Test Championship in 2021. match in Christchurch.

World Test Championship in 2021. "It's not easy to step away from something you've given so much to

you've given so much to and got so much out of, but it's now time for others to step up and take this team forward. "I'm looking forward to one final week in camp and will be doing everything I can to help prepare and support the boys."





Aussies still on top says Wigan boss

By PAUL THOMAS

WIGAN head coach Matt Peet shrugged off suggestions of a seismic shift in rugby league's balance of power, despite his side's dramatic World Club Challenge win over triple defending NRL champions Penrith at a sold-out DW Stadium.

Wigan's 16-12 triumph, which was confirmed when Taylan May's potentially match-equalling try on the hooter was ruled out by a matter of millimetres, marked the first time in 16 years that English clubs have claimed back-to-back wins over their Australian counterparts.

The big-money razzmatazz of the NRL – which kicks off with an historic season-opener in Las Vegas next weekend has often been regarded as a source of envy, but Peet is adamant the constant comparisons with the game Down Under are doing the

English game a disservice.
"I don't think it is a
matter of comparison," said Peet, for whom victory completed his fairytale rise through the Wigan coaching ranks and added the sport's only global club honour to recent Challenge Cup and Grand Final successes

"The NRL is an unbelievable competition, it's got so much going for it, but we know what we've got in this country and we should take more

pride in it. "We talk too much

"We talk too much about what they think of us. We should just be concerned with what we think of ourselves.
"We watch their games and we learn from it and we admire it. But we have got a special competition ourselves with some special individuals in it and we should just talk about that."

Peet's side held firm in the face of relentless Penrith pressure. snatching an opening try through Abbas Miski then regaining their lead



COACH: Matt Peet

through Kruise Leeming after Penrith talisman Nathan Cleary had put his side in front for the first

Penrith full-back Dylan Edwards restored his side's lead in a thrilling, see-saw encounter. but Jake Wardle wriggled over early in the second half to restore Wigan's advantage before Jai Field dumped May into touch when he looked a near certainty to level the scores.

Bevan French was

denied a potential match-winning try by a slim offside call then Wigan were forced to live on their nerves when May looked to have reached the corner as the seconds ticked down.

Vanquished Penrith head coach Ivan Cleary, whose starting line-up featured 10 of the players who had also been edged out by St Helens in Sydney last year, conceded the result reflected a further step towards parity between the two competitions.

"We've always realised that the top teams in Super League are very good. Probably it's the strength in depth where the NRL is a little different in that sense, but I hope tonight's result is only

going to help," said Cleary. "I feel like the best teams can match each

other, but I'm not sure about the rest. "One really good thing about the NRL is you never get an easy game and that's probably the difference in the competitions.

- FOOTBALL: FA Cup, Chelsea v Leeds ITV4 1845, Liverpool v Southampton ITV 1930, Nottingham Forest v Manchester United BBC One 1930; cinch Promiserbin Livingston v
- Nottingham Forest v Manchester United BBC One 1930; cinch Premiership, Livingston v Motherwell Sky Sports Football and Sky Sports Main Event 1930. Serie A, Sassuou v Napoli TNT Sports 1700, Inter Milan v Atalanta TNT Sports 1790. Inter Milan v Atalanta TNT Sports 1930. CRICKET, First Test, New Zealand v Australia TNT Sports 2130. TENNIS: The Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships Sky Sports Main Event 1000. The Cymbiotika San Diego Open Sky Sports Main Event 1000. The Cymbiotika San Diego Open Sky Sports Main Event 1000. The Cymbiotika San Diego Open Sky Sports Main Event 2456. The Abierto Mexicano Telcel presented by HSB Sky Sports Fennis and Sky Sports Main Event 2050. CYCLINE: Laugueglia Trophy Eurosport 1 1330. BASKETBALI NBA. Los Angeles Ciippers v Los Angeles Lakers TNT Sports 1 0000 (Thu).

 THURSDAY

THURSDAY

- MOTIOR RACING: Formula One.
 Bahrain Grand Prix first practice —
 Sky Sports Main Event and Sky
 Sports Bri 1100. Second practice —
 Sky Sports Bri 11430. Sky Sports
 Main Event 1500.
 GDLF. LPSA Tour. The HSBC
 Women's World Championship —
 Sky Sports Bolf and Sky Sports
 Main Event 0430. PGA Tour. The
 Compared Under and Sky Sports
 Main Event 0430. PGA Tour. The
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 CRICKEF. First lest, New Zealand v
 Australia TMI Sports 2 2130.

 DARTS: Premier League, Exeter –
 Sky Sports Main Event and Sky
 Sports Mein Event and Sky
 Sports Mein 1900.

 TENNIS: The Dubai Duty Free Tennis
 Championships Sky Sports
 Tennis 1045: The Cymbiotika San
 Diego Open Sky Sports Tennis
 2000. Sky Sports Main Event 2245.
 The Abiter Da Wiczano Telecl
 presented by HSB Sky Sports
 Tennis and Sky Sports Main Event
 2000 (Thu).
- 0000 (Thu). BASKETBALL: NBA, New York Knicks v Golden State Warriors — TNT Sports 1 0030 (Fri), Denver Nuggets v Miami Heat — TNT Sports 1 0300 (Fri).

- FRIDAY FOOTBALL: Championship, West FOOTBALL Championship, West Brom v Coventry — Sky Sports Football and Sky Sports Main Event 1938; Serie A, Lazio v AC Milan — TIT Sports 11930; Ligue I, Monaco v Paris St. Bermain — INI Sports 11945; Laliga, Celta Vigo v Almeria — Laliga TV 2000. MOTOR RACINE: Formula One. Bahrain Grand Prix third practice — Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Ril Sky Sports Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Ril Sky Sports Sports Sports Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Ril Sky Sports Sports Sports Sports Sports Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Ril Sky Sports S
- Helens v Leigh Leopards Sky Sports Arena 2000. Warrington Wolves v Castleford Tigers Sky Sports Mix 2000. Wigan Warriors Huddersfield Giants Sky Sports Action 2000.
- Action 2000.
 RUGBY UNION: URC, Edinburgh v
 Ospreys BBC Two Wales and
 Viaplay Sports 1930, Munster v
 Zebre Viaplay Sports 1930.
 GOLF: LPGA Tour, The HSBC
- GOLF: LPGA Tour, The HSSC Women's World Championship Sky Sports Golf (943), Sky Sports Main Event Gold). PGA Tour. The Cognizant Classic Sky Sports Golf 1145. TENNIS: The Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships Sky Sports Tennis 1300. The Cymbiotika San Diego Open Sky Sports Tennis 1700. The Albierto Mexicano Telcel recented by HSS.—Sky Sports Tennis presented by HSB — Sky Sports Tennis and Sky Sports Main Event 0000 (Sat). DARTS: UK Open — ITV4 1145 and
- DARIOS ON OPEN-1900.
 ATHLETICS: World Indoor Championships BBC Two England 0930. BBC Two England, BBC Two Northern Ireland and BBC Two Scotland 1845.
- Scotland 1845.
 BOXING: EBU European SuperWelterweight title, Sam Eggington v
 Abass Baraou Channel 5 2200.
 BASKETBALL: NBA, Boston Cettics v
 Dallas Mavericks BBC One and
 TNT Sports 2 0030 (Sat).

SATURDAY

FOUTBALL Premier League, Luton V Aston Villa — Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Premier League 1700. Women's Super League, Manchester City V Everton — Sky Sports Premier League 1130; Championship, Huddersfield

- v Leeds Sky Sports Football and Sky Sports Main Event 1200; Sky Sports Main Event 1200: National League. Dorking v Chesterfield — TNT Sports 1 1200: Serie A, Monza v Roma — TNT Sports 1 1715: Torino v Fiorentina — TNI Sports 2 1930: Laliga. Sevilla v Real Sociedad — Laliga TV 1300. Getale v Las Palmas — Laliga TV 1300, Valencia v Real Madrid — Laliga TV 2000: Bundesliga. Wottsburg v VfB Stuttgart — Sky Sports Football 1730.
- 1730. MOTOR RACING: Formula One, Bahrain Grand Prix Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports F1
- Main Event and say year. 1455.
 RUGBY LEAGUE. Super League.
 Leader Rhinos v Clatalans Dragons
 Sky Sports Arena 1430. Safford
 Red Devits v Hull KR Sky Sports
 Arena 1730.
 RUGBY UNION. URC, Lions v Sharks
 Viaplay Sports 1300. Benefiton v
 Glasgow Viaplay Sports 1500.
 Bulls v Stormers Viaplay Sports
 1505. Connacht v Scarlets S4C.

 1505. Connacht v Scarlets S4C. Bulls v Stormers — Viaplay Sports 1505, Connacht v Scarlets — S4C and Viaplay Sports 1650, Cardiff v Leinster — S4C and Viaplay Sports 1920, Ulster v Dragons — Viaplay Sports 1935. CRICKET: First Test, New Zealand v
- CRICKEL: First lest, New Zealant Australia TMT Sports 2 2145. GOLF: LPGA Tour, The HSBC Women's World Championship Sky Sports Golf and Sky Sports Main Event 0430; P6A Tour, The Cognizant Classic Sky Sports Golf 1145, Sky Sports Main Ever 2020 2030. Horse Racing: Kelso — ITV
- NUKSE RALING: REISO ITV
 regions 1300.

 ATHLETICS: World Indoor
 Championships BBC Two England
 0930 and 1840.

 DARTS: UK Open ITV4 1245, ITV3
- 1900.
 BOXING: WBA World Featherweight title, Otabek Kholmatov v Raymond Ford Sky Sports Action 0100
- Ford Sky Sports Action 0100 (Sum).
 CYCLING: Strade Bianche Eurosport 2 1030.
 TENNIS: The Dubai Duty Free Tennis 1500: The Cymbiotika San Diego Open Sky Sports Tennis 2030. Sky Sports Main Event 2300: The Abierto Mexicano Telect presented by HSB Sky Sports Tennis 1000 (Sun).

- sennis uuuu (sun).

 SUNDAY

 FOOTBALL: Premier League,
 Burnley v Bournemouth Sky
 Sports Premier League 1200, Sky
 Sports Main Event 1400,
 Manchester City v Manchester
 United Sky Sports Main Event
 and Sky Sports Premier League
 1500. Women's Suner League United — Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Premier League 1500. Women's Super League Assensive Total Name 150. The Month of the Sky Sports Amin Sky Sports Amin Sky Sports Foremier League 1820. cinch Premiership, Hearts v Celic — Sky Sports Foremier League 1820. cinch Premiership, Hearts v Celic — Sky Sports Foremied and Sky Sports Shorts Amin Event and Sky Sports 161. Sky Sports 6 1400. Empoil v Cagliari—1113. Prositione v Lecce — TNT Sports 2 1400. Atlanta v Bologna — INT Sports 2 1700. Repnoil v Juventus — TNT Sports 1730. Lique 1, Toulouse v Nice — TNT Sports 2 1700. Prost v Le Havre — TNT Sports 2 1700. Rennes Lorient — Lique 1 1605. Laliga Villarreal v Granada — Viaplay Sports 1 and Laliga TV 1300. Atletico Madrid v Real Betis — Viaplay Sports 1 and Laliga TV 1730. Athletic Bilbao v Barcelona — Viaplay Sports 1 and Laliga TV 1730. Bundessiga. Cologne v Bayer Leverkusen — Sky Sports Football 1430.
- 1430.
 ATHLETICS: World Indoor
 Championships BBC Two England
 0930 and 1830.
 GOLF: LPGA Tour, The HSBC
- Women's World Championship Sky Sports Golf and Sky Sports Main Event 0430; PGA Tour, The Cognizant Classic Sky Sports Golf 1145, Sky Sports Main Event
- Golf 1145, Sky Special 2130. RUGBY LEAGUE: Super League, Hull FC v London Broncos Sky Sports Arena 1455.
- IENNIS: The Movistar Chile Upen —
 Sky Sports Tennis 2200, Sky Sports
 Main Event 2300.
 CRICKET: First Test, New Zealand v
 Australia TNT Sports 1 2145.
 CYCLING: Grand Prix Monsere —
 Evenaged:
- Eurosport 2 1245; Paris-Nice Eurosport 2 1415.

ALL THE TOP TIPS FOR TODAY'S RACING



By MIKE FRANCIS

PITWOOD Road has plenty going for her in the Camden Stout Mares' Maiden Hurdle at Bangor.

County Cork trainer Terence O'Brien brought her

Terence O'Brien brought her over to win a bumper at Ayr and he has now moved his attention from Scotland to Wales.

The six-year-old mare is owned by Derrick Mossop, who saw his colours carried to victory by Anglers Crag in the valuable Eider Chase last weekend, so he is on the crest of a wave currently.

Bumpers

Having chased home the useful Annalecka on her debut under rules having won a point to point, she was prominent in the betting at Thurles before Christmas but failed to lay a glove on Willie Mullins' Femme Willie Mullins' Femme Magnifique, who ran in a Grade Two next time out. Brought to Ayr earlier this month, she won in a canter

under Brian Hughes and he maintains the ride in a race in which his main employer Donald McCain has two runners.

runners.
The testing ground should suit Nigel Twiston-Davies' Guard The Moon in the Ruabon Novices' Hurdle.
The winner of two bumpers, he made his hurdling debut at Chepstow where he ran too keen to do himself justice.



It was to his credit he was beaten just over seven lengths into third and if he

settles better, he should take all the beating. Catch Him Derry won with more in hand than the official three-quarter-length verdict suggests at Southwell in

January.

Dan Skelton's charge had

Dan Skelton's charge had shown glimpses of promise but always threatened to do better once handicapping.
Harry Skelton rode him with plenty of confidence for a horse racing over a mile further than he had ever tackled before but it was never really in any doubt.

Raised 6lb, that should not

Raised 6lb, that should not be enough to stop him.
Goonhilly can give Skelton a winner at Wincanton in the Golf Memberships On Sale March 1st Maiden Hurdle.
He has probably not quite progressed as Skelton would have hoped after he finished third on his hurdling debut at Uttoxeter and he disappointed at Taunton last time out.

disappointed at Taunton last time out.

He should be given one last chance to shine here.
Pedley Wood showed improved form last time out despite his hat-trick bid being foiled.

He is bottom weight in the

Family Raceday April 21st Free Entertainment Handicap Chase and can get

Handicap Chase and can get back to winning ways with Freddie Gingell's 5lb claim further aiding his cause.

Charlie Appleby's Creative Story is bred to be smart and can make a winning debut in the Unibet Zero's Mission Novice Stakes at Kempton.

The son of Too Darn Hot is a half-brother to National Stakes winner Quorto, also trained by Appleby.

Win

Win

While Quorto was out in the June of his juvenile season, Creative Story is making his debut at three but his dam, Volume, was third in the Oaks so the pedigree is not all about early speed.

Eve Johnson Houghton's Lady Of Arabia is worth following as she goes for a third successive win in the Try Unibet's Improved Bet Builder Handicap.

SELECTIONS

SELECTIONS

BANGOR: 2.20 Shady B, 2.50
BANGOR: 2.20 Shady B, 2.50
Breeze Of Wind, 3.20 Gold
Emery, 3.50 PITWOOD ROAD
(NAP), 4.20 Guard The Moon,
4.50 Catch Him Derry,
KEMPTON: 5.30 Mutasawi,
6.00 Lady In Havana, 6.30
Creative Story, 7.00 Lady Of
Arabia, 7.30 Kumari Star, 8.00
Arabia, 7.30 Kumari Star, 8.00
WINCANTON: 2.35 Passing
Kate, 3.05 Goonhilly, 3.35 Pedley
Wood, 4.05 Tune In A Box, 4.35
Royal Sam, 5.05 Famous
Clermont.



BRENTFORD captain Christian Norgaard the wants Premier League survival race to be decided on the pitch, not by "someone with a

The Bees were plunged deeper into the relegation battle after Everton's points deduction for after Eve-deduction for profit and points deduction for breaking profit and sustainability rules was reduced from 10 to six. Thomas Frank's side then did themselves no favours on

Ionday evening when they ere rolled over 4-2 by West

Ham.
They are now just five points above the drop zone while Luton, in 18th, have a game in hand.
"It's hard for me to these

omment on these deductions. Somewhere, someone is sitting with a calculator and putting in points, taking away points," said Danish midfielder

Norgaard.
"I don't know. It's people's jobs, people's lives they're messing with. I don't know what's going on, to be fair. "We have to focus on us,

By PAUL THOMAS

not on Everton. I'm sure we will improve and I'm sure we will find ourselves safe in the Premier League when all is said and done. But there are things we have to talk about

things we have to talk about and improve.

"I think that's the right approach to have, otherwise you're relying on someone else's decisions. We have to improve, we have to do better and then we will be fine by the end of the season."

Brentford have the chance to bounce hack when they

Brentford have the chance to bounce back when they host Chelsea in a west London derby next Saturday. "In general, against the better teams we perform quite well and now we have to show it again," said German midfielder Vitaly Janelt

Janeit.
"I can't remember the last time we lost against Chelsea so that's a good sign. Of course, we have to show a 10-out-of-10 performance, 10-out-of-10 performance, otherwise we'll end up like this again. "We have to focus on

ourselves, another week to train and then hopefully we get the three points at home against Chelsea." Jarrod Bowen's maiden



career hat-trick helped secure a first win in nine for the Hammers following a miserable start to the year. Neal Maupay pulled one back before Bowen made it 3-1 and Emerson Palmieri hit a spectacular fourth prior yane Wissa's late Ýoane Wissa's consolation.
"It was an incredible night

a win, my first hat-trick and a reaction we needed from recent weeks – so a really good night," said Bowen

"We've got to build on this, it's one result that we've got

to build on and keep winning games.

Luton boss Rob Edwards Luton boss Rob Edwards insisted Everton's points deduction being reduced was "out of our hands" and called for his players to focus on their own performances to stay in the Premier League.

stay in the Premier League.
Luton now sit four points
from safety in the relegation
zone. Edwards said: "We
were in the bottom three
before it anyway, but now it
looks like we're four points
behind Nottingham Forest
with a game is band or the with a game in hand so the situation is the same from

our point of view. It's good that there's a bit of clarity.

our point of view. It's good that there's a bit of clarity.

"It was going to be hard anyway. We're in a difficult league and it's been tough from dayone. There are more charges, butthat's completely out of our hands and control.

"What's in our control is our performances, how hard we work and I wish we can control results, but we can't. If we don't do our job then it doesn't matter anyway."

Luton have recorded three straight defeats and will need to get back to winning ways if they are to retain their Premier League status for next season. for next season.

Control

Edwards reiterated that he does not want to rely on other clubs' punishments to keep them in the division.

"It's a unique situation isn't it and it's something none of us have experienced before," he added.

"But it's out of our control and all we really care about is Luton and that we need to get enough points to stay in the league.

"I don't want to rely on other things and external factors which we cannot control."

Scotland last crowned Six or Five Nations champions? 2. American boxer Claressa Shields has won world titles in how

many weight classes?
3. Five English teams have won the World Club Challenge – Wigan, St Helens, Leeds, Bradford

and who? 4. What was Nottingham Forest boss Nuno
Espirito Santo's position
during his playing

career?
5. The last five Netball
Super League Grand
Finals have been played
at which London venue?
6. England bowler
Shoalb Bashir plays for which county side?
7. Lewis Hamilton is set to leave Mercedes in

2025 to join Ferrari – who did he drive for before joining his current team in 2013? 8. Three-time French Open champion and current tennis world number one Iga Swiatek is from which country?

9. Scotland forward

Martha Thomas joined Tottenham last summer from which fellow Women's Super League

10. What is the name of League Two Swindon's home stadium? 11. How many matches in a row have Scotland won against England

after Saturday's 31-20 victory at Murrayfield?

12. Joe Root hit his 31st Test century in England's fourth Test to defeat to India, but how many of his hundreds have come against

13. Who is top of the Premier League Darts table after four rounds? 14. What year did Wigan win their first World Club Challenge title?

15. How many minutes did Grace Clinton need to mark her Lionesses' debut against Austria

with a goal?
16. Players
Championship runner-up Zhang Anda turned professional in what year? 17. How old was Sky

Brown when she won bronze in the women's park skateboarding at 2020 Olympics in Tokyo?

18. Who were the lowest-ranked team to reach the FA Cup fifth round in 2023? 19. How many Challenger Tour titles

did Andy Murray win in 2023?

20. Who won the first Bahrain Grand Prix in 2004?

ANSWERS: 1. 1999; 2.

- 1839: The Grand National was run at Aintree for the first time. The race, which was then known as the Grand Liverpool Steeplechase, was won by Lottery, ridden by Jem Mason. There had been three previous editions of the race at nearby Maghull. It was renamed the Grand **National Steeplechase**
- 1983: Arsenal goalkeeper Pat Jennings made his 1,000th appearance in first-class football. He marked the occasion by keeping a clean sheet in a goalless draw at West Brom.
- 1993: Australia captain Allan Border became the most prolific scorer in Test cricket when he surpassed Sunil Gavaskar's record of 10,122 runs. Border's mark, achieved in a match against New Zealand at Christchurch, was passed by Brian Lara in 2005.
- 2006: Manchester United won the Carling Cup, beating Wigan 4-0 at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.
- 2009: England prop Matt Stevens received a two-year ban for failing a drugs test.
- 2010: Portsmouth became the first Premier League club to go into administration. 2011: Former
- Tottenham and Wolves defender Dean Richards died after a long-term illness at the
- age of 36. 2012: Liverpool won the Carling Cup after a 3-2 penalty shootout victory over Cardiff in the final at Wembley. The match finished 2-2 after extra time. 2016: Gianni Infantino
- was elected FIFA president at the world governing body's extraordinary congress in Zurich. After the presidential election entered a second round of voting for the first time in 42 years, Infantino secured 115 votes to pre-vote favourite Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim al Khalifa's 88 to become the second successive Swiss president after
- Sepp Blatter. 2017: Zlatan header secured Manchester United the first major trophy of the Jose Mourinho era, breaking Southampton hearts at the end of a thrilling 3-2 EFL Cup
- 2020: Maria Sharapova revealed she was "saying goodbye" to tennis in an article in Vanity Fair.
- was moved to a new hospital in Los Angeles in the next stage of his recovery from multiple injuries sustained in a serious car accident.

GUARDIOLA READY FOR SQU

PEP Guardiola is relishing the decisive phase of the season and has promised Manchester City are again "going for it".

The treble winners are strong contention to repeat last season's glories in the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup.

March will be a crucial month with

March will be a crucial month with a derby against Manchester United followed by clashes against title rivals Liverpool and Arsenal. They will also look to wrap up their place in the Champions League quarter-finals as they host FC Copenhagen leading 3-1 after the first leg of their lest.16 tie last-16 tie. Prior to that comes an FA Cup

fifth-round trip to Luton on Tuesday and Guardiola is looking forward to that and the coming weeks. The City manager said: "So after

By PAUL THOMAS

this game, February is over. Just two-and-a-half, three months to end of the season and we've arrived here

stillbeingthere(inthecompetitions). "Tomorrow is a final, like every game in Premier League and of course in Champions League.

course in Champions League.

"The decisive part of the season is here ahead of us, in front of us, not far away, and we are going for it.

"It's better to play for this than being 10th in the table and (having) no chance for that. The feeling is that if you lose – bye-bye. It's so nice.

"The problem is September, October – you see the expectations far, far away. In that moment you don't think about any titles.

don't think about any titles.
"We don't even now. I would say
how we'll define the end of March,
beginning of April depends on what
we have done this next month.

Tomorrow and this month will (determine) our options."

City have close to a fully-fit squad

for the trip to Kenilworth Road after Jack Grealish returned to the squad as an unused substitute at Bournemouth on Saturday following

agroin injury.

Defender Josko Gvardiol is now the team's only notable absentee with an ankle problem and Guardiola is hopeful he will return soon.

Aggressive

City needed to come from behind to beat relegation battlers Luton away in December and Guardiola is anticipating another tricky encounter.

He said: "It will be even more

He said: It will be even more difficult.

"We saw all the games played there against the top, top sides, and the reason why is clear – football goes in the direction Luton play, so,

so aggressive. It doesn't matter if you are at top of the league, the bottom or in the middle, (they have) courage to play and face the challenge without any fear.

"And after, it's not just that. They have played direct channels but at the same time they have the ability. I think they've improved a lot since we met them there with their build-up play and the patterns are so clear."

Guardiola has urged Jack Grealish to seize an opportunity to finish the season strongly.

The England midfielder has so far this term been unable to reproduce the influential form he played in last year's treble success.

The 28-year-old's campaign has twice been interrupted by injury and there was also an unsettling off-field incident when his house was burgled while members of his family and girlfriend were in the property. His



City's Champions League game at FC Copenhagen earlier this month but, after a speedy recovery, he was an unused recovery, he was an unused substitute at Bournemouth on Saturday.

He could come back into the

reckoning for Tuesday's FA Cup fifth-round tie at Luton and Guardiola hopes he can make the most of it.

Setback

Guardiola said: "He started a bit late but (in) the last month Jack is back in terms of many

Jack is back in terms of mithings.

"That's why he played an important game in Copenhagen. Unfortunately there was a setback after 10-15 minutes but he's recovered quick and he is

back. Hopefully (he can have) the impact he had last season. It depends on him.

"I try to be fair with my decisions. If he played a lot of minutes last season and this season a little bit less in the beginning, he is the same player. It's the same manager, the same way we want to play. Nothing has changed.

"It is just how how we perform, that is the difference. We need him. I've said from day one we need him. He has a special quality for our team. Hopefully he can do a good last three months."

With other players in form, however, Guardiola admits Grealish will have to hit the ground running

Grealish must compete with the likes of Phil Foden, Jeremy Doku, Julian Alvarez and

for a place.

for a place.
Guardiola said: "I cannot give three or four games in a row in order to get the rhythm.
"They have to take a rhythm to play 20 minutes, in the high level. You cannot wait

"I'm going to give you three or

four (games) for you be fit and the other 10 players don't play? "They don't deserve the same? Of course they deserve it but that's not how it works. "You have to see in the training

session, every moment.
"He's the same lovely person, lovely guy, same qualities, skills.

He has more years to improve.

"So the players don't have to convince me. They have to convince themselves that they deserve to play."





Elliott pushes 'to the max' for Reds start

LIVERPOOL midfielder Harvey Elliott accepts he will have to continue to push himself "to the max" as injuries threaten to derail the club's bid for an unprecedented quadruple.

The 20-year-old played the full 120 minutes of Sunday's Carabao Cup extra-time win over Chelsea just four days after playing the entirety of the 4-1 victory against Luton, in which he scored a 90thminute goal and had to be hauled off the turf at the end of the game.

His previous four appearances had all been as a substitute and amounted to just 153 minutes, but with 12 first team players unavailable through injury, fringe and academy players are now finding they are having to play more significant roles.

Celebrate

That is likely to be the case against Sky Bet Championship high-fliers Southampton in the fifth round of the FA Cup at Anfield on Wednesday – t third of four games in 15

days.
"Digging in deep – it came off the back of 90 minutes in midweek – is what you live for. This is why you're a footballer," said Elliott, who collapsed to the ground in exhaustion as the rest of the team ran to celebrate Virgil van Dijk's 118th-minute goal at

"You need to push yourself to the max in order



WINNER: Van Dijk

to get results and we did

"To come away with a victory is massive but we need to put it behind us, make sure we are recovered and focused on

Wednesday.
"It will be another big
test against Southampton
as they are doing well this season and are going to cause us problems. I can't wait for another game."

Wednesday looks like a significant hurdle for Liverpool – top of the Premier League by a point and facing Sparta Prague in the Europa League – to overcome in their quest to win four trophies taking into account their injury situation and the emotional toil of the cup final just a few days ago.
Elliott insists it is up to

the players to battle their way through if of they want to keep the bid on track.

"It's going to be hard. It is just down to us. We need to put in the fight, desire and hunger and who knows at the end of the season,'

ERIC Ramsay has left Manchester United to join Minnesota United and become the youngest head coach in Major League Soccer history.

The 32-year-old Welshman, who was a first-team coach under Erik ten Hag at Old Trafford, is the latest British coach to cross the Atlantic, joining the likes of Phil Neville and Dean Smith.

In a statement issued by Minnesota United, Ramsay said: "I'm incredibly excited to be joining a club with such a strong football culture, a fanatic fan-base and a brilliant infrastructure.

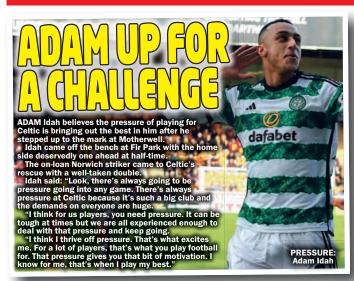
"Tve spoken to a lot of the club's staff throughout the process and you can't help but feel everyone's passion for moving the club forward."

Ramsay joined Manchester United as a coach under Ole Gunnar Solskjaer in 2021 and also served as an assistant coach to the Welsh national team in 2023.

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